

Loc. Kota Kota, west coast of Nyasa (Universities' Mission). Five females and one male.

So far as my knowledge of the genus extends, this is a very distinct species, falling partly into section 2 and partly into section 3 of the table of South-African species of *Uroplectes* published in Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist (6) xvii., May 1896. It approaches *occidentalis*, *vittatus*, and *Fischeri* in colour and in having the caudal segments smooth, punctured, and keelless; and *olivaceus*, *triangulifer*, and *chlorodermus* in having the hand of the male spinous internally; further approaching *triangulifer* and *Marshalli* in having the basal pectinal tooth of normal size in the female.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

November 18, 1896.—Dr. Henry Hicks, F.R.S.,
President, in the Chair.

The following communications were read:—

1. 'On *Cycadeoidea gigantea*, a new Cycadean Stem from the Isle of Portland.' By A. C. Seward, Esq., M.A., F.G.S.

The specimen described by the Author was discovered a short time since in one of the Purbeck Dirt-beds, and is now in the Fossil Plant gallery of the British Museum. In the absence of any fructification, Buckland's generic name of *Cycadeoidea* is chosen in preference to *Bennettites*, although in many respects the Portland stem is identical with *Bennettites Gibsonianus*. Externally, the surface is covered with rhomboidal areas separated from one another by a projecting framework consisting of the silicified ramental tissue, which thickly clothed the bases of the petioles. The peripheral portion of the stem afforded thin sections from which it was possible to investigate the anatomical structure of the leaf-bases and ramental scales. Internally, the wood- and pith-tissues have been entirely replaced by inorganic material. The Author calls attention to the preservation of a prominent apical bud covered with narrow bud-scales and capped by a mass of ramenta. No indication is found of a lateral inflorescence such as characterizes *Bennettites Gibsonianus*, and the negative evidence suggests the occurrence of terminal reproductive structures. A comparison of this fossil with recent Cycads and Ferns brings out many points of close agreement with the former, and as regards the structure of the ramenta, evidence is afforded of an interesting survival of the closer resemblance which formerly existed between Cycadean and Fern-like plants. The stem is named *Cycadeoidea gigantea*.

2. 'The Fauna of the Keisley Limestone.—Part II. Conclusion.' By F. R. C. Reed, Esq., M.A., F.G.S.

The Author describes the ostracoda, brachiopoda, mollusca, echinodermata, and actinozoa of the Keisley Limestone. He gives a list of

fossils from the Limestone, and indicates those species which occur in the Limestone of Kildare, the *Leptæna*-Limestone of Sweden, and Stage F of the East Baltic provinces. As a result of his researches he concludes that the fauna has a thoroughly Ordovician facies; that it is closely comparable with that of the Limestone of the Chair of Kildare, and of the *Leptæna*-Limestone, and less closely with that of Stage F of the East Baltic provinces; that its palæontological features point to its stratigraphical position being at the base of the Upper Bala, and that it must be regarded as the locally thickened development of a bed which is elsewhere in Great Britain very thin, or entirely absent, or represented by beds having different lithological characters and a different fauna: and that the fauna has certain unique characters which mark it off from all other known assemblages of fossils in Great Britain.

MISCELLANEOUS.

“*The most pious priority purist*” on the *Lobster, the Crayfish, and Professor Bell*. By the Rev. THOMAS R. R. STEBBING, M.A., F.R.S., F.L.S.

PROFESSOR BELL, in the ‘Annals’ for December 1896, has very obligingly undertaken, for the benefit of “priority-claimers” in general and as a warning to the ‘Athenæum’ in particular, to comment on some of the names and dates in my ‘History of Crustacea.’ In his essay there are some pleasing autobiographical touches. He begins by reminding the reader that in 1891, with regard to the name *Holothuria*, he established a precedent, to be a beacon-light to all zoologists in the present and a rule of conduct for future generations. In the course of his paper, while dealing with questions that are absolutely bibliographical, he naively says “I am no bibliographer”—a remark which might have been set down as a flourish of rhetorical modesty, had it not been surrounded by the corroborative evidence of his general argument. His conclusion needs no gloss: “I have taken,” he says, “a great deal of trouble with this case, and I have a suspicion that if a few more would be equally ‘eingehende’ we might speedily give the purists the short shrift I have often wished them.”

The criticism which leads up to this terror-striking sentence must now be examined in detail. “First,” says the professor, “as a matter of accuracy in dates and names: on p. 202 of Mr. Stebbing’s work already referred to, ‘*Nephrops*, Leach, 1819,’ should have the date corrected to 1814.” This, I eagerly admit, is a really meritorious performance on Professor Bell’s part. He does not say whence he obtained the date 1814, but it may be inferred that he derives it from the mention of *Nephrops* in Brewster’s ‘Edinburgh Encyclopædia,’ vol. vii. pp. 398, 400. The date of Leach’s article “Crustaceology” in that volume is 1814, or perhaps 1813. Under “Genus XLI. *ASTACUS*,” Leach, introducing his own name as if it were that of a stranger, remarks that “In *A. gammarus* and *fluviatilis* the external antennæ are simple, in *norvegicus* furnished with a scale at their external base: this last is considered as a